

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES**

June 12, 2002

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair  
Bob Lowry  
Janon Rogers  
Lita Verts  
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - April 10, 2002			Accepted as written
Ridership Reports ☺	X		
Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Survey Results	X		
April 30 Regional Transportation Meeting	X		
2002-03 Budget Update	X		
2000 Census Data - Commute to Work	X		
Intermodal Mall - Status Report	X		
OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Programs			
ODOT 2002-03 Operating Grant Application	X		
Spring CTS Newsletter	X		
Kids Summer Pass Program	X		
FTA Grant Award - Operations/Maintenance Facility	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission	X		

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 10, 2002**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**II. INFORMATION SHARING**

**A. Ridership Reports (fixed, paratransit, Philomath)☺**

The ridership reports were presented. CTS provided 50,170 rides in April and 46,570 in May. This represents the

highest April and May ridership in the history of the system. As of Monday, June 10, it appeared that the Corvallis Transit System had reached a milestone of providing over 500,000 rides in one year. The Philomath report showed 1,245 rides provided in April and 1,196 in May. The Dial-A-Bus ridership was also presented.

## **B. Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Survey Results**

Staff provided a summary of the results of the 2-week, on-board ridership survey to determine how many seniors 60 years of age and older, youth 17 years and younger, and persons with disabilities were riding the bus. The summary shows who rode which routes during the survey period. The survey summary also provided the percentage results from the previous three surveys.

The count is tracked by the drivers based on their personal observation or knowledge of the person and the payment method. (Seniors/youth/disabled have a discounted rate for cash and discounted, color-coded coupons and passes.) It was noted that seniors/youth/disabled make up almost 38 percent of the CTS ridership. Youth continue to make up a large percentage of the ridership at over 19 percent. (See attached.) A similar survey was conducted for the Philomath Connection and results provided to Commission members.

## **C. April 30 Transportation Meeting**

Chairman Anderson attended the April 30 meeting regarding transportation issues in Linn and Benton Counties. The meeting was initiated by Benton County Commissioner Modrell and Linn County Commissioner Nyquist to provide information regarding existing transportation in the 2-county area and identify transportation issues. Attendees included various elected officials, advisory committee members, staff and other interested parties from the various jurisdictions. Corvallis Public Works Director Rogers provided an overview of public transportation available in the 2-county area. The group then listed a variety of transportation alternatives, including highways, transit, senior/disabled transportation, sky taxi, taxicabs, etc and issues related to each. The conclusion that was reached is that there is a transportation problem in the area. It was also felt that there was very little support to increase funding to address the problem. Additional meetings may be held in the future

on more focused topics. It was noted that two previous regional transit studies, one completed in 1999 and one approximately 10 years earlier had made the same determination, i.e. recognized need for increased transit but no financial support in the 2-county area. The survey conducted as part of the 1999 study indicated that Corvallis residents would support increased taxes for transit.

#### **D. 2002-03 Budget Update**

Staff distributed a revised budget prioritization list approved by the Budget Commission in February and revised in April 2002 to remove the Street Fund activities from the list. The list indicates those activities that have already been cut from the 2002-03 budget and the items that will most likely be cut if the levy fails. Councilor Wershow provided additional information about the list and the Budget Commission's recommendation to place a \$.58 per \$1,000 property tax levy on the 2002 November ballot. The Commission will be kept informed as this item develops.

#### **E. 2000 Census Data - Commute to Work**

Public Works Director Rogers developed a spreadsheet comparing the various transportation modes used by people in Oregon to commute to work. A copy of the list was distributed. It was noted that percentage of transit use has increased since the 1990 census.

#### **F. Intermodal Mall - Status Report**

A contract for the intermodal mall is being circulated for signature and construction is expected to begin the week of June 17. The project has been delayed from its original projected start date of May 31, which will delay completion until later in October. Much will depend on construction weather.

#### **G. OSU/ASOSU 2002-03 Group Pass Program**

The contract between OSU and the City for next year's transit group pass program for faculty, staff, and students has been delivered to Oregon State contracts staff and is expected to be signed in the next week. It does include a small student incidental fee increase, from \$1.70 per student/per term for Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms to

\$1.75. The increase was approved by the Student Senate in May. The faculty/staff amount remains the same at \$20,000 based upon their usage. The Philomath Connection will continue to receive \$.05 per student per term and the faculty/staff amount remained the same as the 2001-02 contract as well.

#### **H. ODOT 2002-03 OPERATING GRANT APPLICATION**

The 2002-03 operating grant application was filed with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in May, and the grant award is expected to be received on or before June 30. It will be forwarded to Council for acceptance. The grant amount remains essentially the same as the 2001-02 amount of \$143,000 and is funded by the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5311 program (small city/rural). It is anticipated that the operating grant amount will increase significantly once the City is eligible to receive the FTA Section 5307 (small urban) funds.

#### **I. Spring CTS Newsletter**

Copies of the Spring CTS newsletter were distributed to Commission members. The Summer newsletter is being developed and will be printed and distributed as soon as the FY 2001-02 ridership numbers are available.

#### **J. Summer Youth Pass Program**

The summer youth pass program is in full swing and many of the passes have already been sold. Staff displayed one pair of the brightly-colored sunglasses that are being given away to those who purchase the summer passes. The glasses have proved to be extremely popular with both parents and youth.

#### **K. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application Submitted**

The City of Corvallis received a Congressional earmark to conduct preliminary design activities for a transit operations and maintenance facility. The grant has been awarded to the City by the FTA and will be considered for acceptance by the City Council at their June 17 meeting. The grant provides 80-percent of the funds necessary to identify potential partners in the facility, potential site locations, and preliminary design of the facility. The potential sites would be evaluated and a preferred location

identified. It is likely that a Congressional earmark would then be sought for construction costs.

**L. Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - April 26**

The Linn-Benton Loop Commission discussed funding for the current year as well as the 2002-03 fiscal year at their April 26 meeting. It was reported that there was a shortfall in the current year because of personnel costs, unexpected bus repairs, and less than budgeted fare revenues. Oregon State University had made a verbal commitment to assist with the gap in funding for the Linn-Benton Loop group pass program. Additional funds were going to be sought from the LBCC and OSU foundations. The Loop Commission will meet again on Friday, June 14, to discuss the funding issue.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 10, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, August 14, 7:30 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, September 11, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D